I have never been to Calcutta –

One of the visitors started the talk one morning with the words: Shri Maharaj has sometimes said that the entire manifestation is an illusion, like a movie or a stage play, and that ...

Shri Maharaj interrupted him with a laugh and said "yes, it is not only like a movie, but it is a hell of a comedy, a real slapstick, if you would only see, really see, what the whole thing is as it really is. Look, here I am, ~~practically untouchable~~ in my home bothering no one, doing what comes to me naturally. Then, suddenly one day, policemen appear at my door-step and charge me with robbery and assault in Calcutta on such such a day. I tell them that I have never been out of my home town, let alone being in Calcutta and taking part in an ~~action~~ robbery and assault. With the conviction with which I tell them this, they are diffident, they make more enquiries, they find that what I said was quite true, and they apologise to me and leave me alone. This is as it should be.

"But here comes the comic part. You also face a similar situation; you have also never been to Calcutta, but you are so impressed with the conviction with which they make the charge that you accept the charge, put out your hands for the handcuffs, and when they put you behind bars, you lament about your bondage and cry out for liberation! Is this not really funny?

In my original state of unicity and wholeness, I didn't even know that I existed. And then suddenly I am told that I ~~a particular~~ was born, that a particular body is 'Me', that a particular couple are my parents. Since then I began to acquire further information extremely rapidly and built up a whole pseudo-personality because I ACCEPTED the charge of being born, although, I was fully aware

that I had no experience of being born, that I had never agreed to being born, that my body was being thrust on me as myself. Gradually, the conditioning became stronger and stronger and grew to such an extent that not only did I accept the charge that I was born as a particular body but that I would at some future date "die", and the very word "death" became a dreaded word, signifying a traumatic event. Can anything be more funny? By my Guru's Grace, I realised my true nature, and also realised what a huge joke had been played on me.

"The startling illusion is not so much the happening of an event known as birth-life-death over a period of what is known as 'time', as the acceptance of an objective entity which is supposed to experience this conceptual event. And the enveloping illusion to make this illusion possible is that of the concept of space in which objects could be extended and the concept of time-duration- in which the ~~ex~~ spatially extended objects could be perceived.

"Now do you see why I said that the whole thing is a slapstick comedy, a farce? Go a step further and see the extent to which this conceptual entity goes in this farce. ~~which~~ He not only ~~does~~ fails, even to see that he is merely an actor in this farce, but goes on to assume that he ~~is~~ has choice of decision and action in this farce called life which must obviously go work out strictly according to the script. And when the spontaneous events take place in the ordinary course, he lets himself get affected by them, and suffers. And then he thinks of 'bondage' and 'liberation'.

Liberation is only seeing ~~the farce~~ life ~~and~~ as a farce, and that he (I), without the slightest touch of objectivity, is not an entity of any shape, name or kind. Liberation is apperceiving that sentient

objects are part of the total phenomena without separate identity, that what I am is the sentience in these objects, the conscious PRESENCE, as such; liberation is the apperception that I, the absolute in my phenomenal expression is the FUNCTIONING (seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting, smelling, thinking) without the presence of any individual ~~entity, jokers~~ commedians, ~~who think~~